

From: Green, Holly
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2015 5:34 AM
To: Dellinger, Philip
Subject: Fwd: BNA: Texas Railroad Agency to Require Testing Of Four Disposal Wells Following Earthquake

FYI, from our conversation.

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Begin forwarded message:

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Date: May 13, 2015 at 5:48:21 AM EDT
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Subject: BNA: Texas Railroad Agency to Require Testing Of Four Disposal Wells Following Earthquake

Hydraulic Fracturing

Texas Railroad Agency to Require Testing Of Four Disposal Wells Following Earthquake

May 12 — The Texas Railroad Commission notified four disposal well operators they would be required to conduct well and reservoir testing after a 4.0 magnitude earthquake hit North Texas May 7.

Five wells, operated by four companies, are within 100 square miles of the estimated epicenter, the commission said May 8. The operators have agreed to temporarily shut down to conduct the testing within a matter of days. The operators are Bosque Disposal Systems, EOG Resources, Metro Saltwater Disposal and Pinnergy Ltd.

In 2014, the commission adopted rules allowing the collection of data related to seismicity. Test results will provide important data and information to determine what action, if any, is necessary to address seismicity in that area.

“We take the issue of seismicity very seriously and want to move quickly to better understand if there are actions the Commission should require of operators to protect the public, up to and including shutting down well operations,” Craig Pearson, commission staff seismologist, said in a statement. “More data is always useful in making these kinds of critical decisions that impact the public and the industry.”

Following the May 7 earthquake, the commission dispatched inspectors to the area to inspect oil and gas wells and disposal wells for any damage resulting from the event. No damage to infrastructure was found or detected, the commission said.

Pinnergy President and CEO Randy Taylor said, “We at Pinnergy are doing everything we can to support the efforts of the Commission. On Friday, May 8, we volunteered to immediately shut in our well near Alvarado, [Texas]. In addition, we chose to hire an independent testing authority to conduct the recommended tests as soon as possible.”

In April, the commission directed its hearings division to initiate proceedings requiring the operators of two other disposal wells, located in the area of Azle, Texas, to show cause why their injection permits shouldn't be canceled and the wells ordered shut-in due to an alleged connection raised by new seismic research between ongoing operation of the wells and seismic activity in the vicinity.

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